Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Exemption Statement

Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021 introduced the concept of BNG into planning legislation, stating that "the biodiversity gain objective is met in relation to development for which planning permission is granted if the biodiversity value attributable to the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by at least [10%]".

However, certain types of development for which planning permission is required are exempt from biodiversity net gain requirements and planning conditions. These are outlined in The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

Section 4 of The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024, also known as the "de minimis exemption", states the following: The biodiversity gain planning condition does not apply in relation to planning permission for development which: (Condition 1) does not impact an onsite priority habitat, and (Condition 2) impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat that has a biodiversity value greater than zero; and less than 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat.

The proposed development meets Conditions 1 and 2 of Section 4 of The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

The existing site does not contain any priority habitats listed under the Government's List of priority habitats and species in England ('Section 41 habitats and species') for public bodies, landowners and funders to use for biodiversity conservation, a copy of which can be found at the following website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of principal-importance-in-england.

The proposed property will be constructed on land currently occupied by hardstanding surfaces, consisting of a mix of resin, stones, and concrete.

Consequently, the area to be developed can be described as consisting of a mix of habitats classified under the UK Habitat Classification, as detailed in Appendix 2 of The Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide (2024), as follows:

- Urban - Un-vegetated garden
- Urban - Developed land; sealed surface ("Impermeable Hardscape")
- Urban - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface ("Permeable Hardscape")

None of the habitat classifications within the red line boundary have a biodiversity value exceeding zero, as can be verified in the Government's Small Sites Metric (Statutory Biodiversity Metric) User Guide and Calculation Tools (2024). Consequently, the proposed development would impact less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat that has a biodiversity value greater than zero, thereby meeting Condition 2 of Section 4 of The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

As a result, the proposed development is exempt from biodiversity net gain requirements and planning conditions under the de minimis rule of Section 4 of The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.